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MICHIGAN LABOR MARKET REVIEW

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JOB SERVICE
Michigan Employment Security Commission

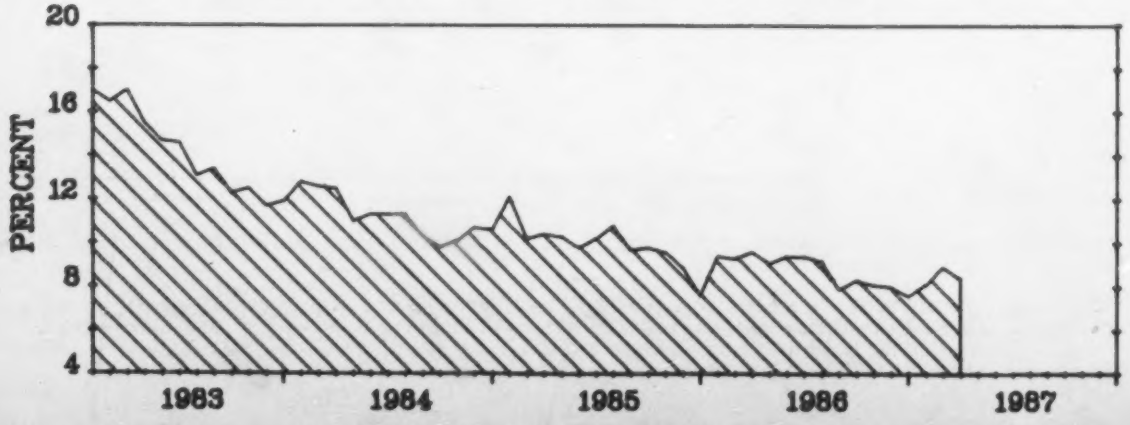
MICHIGAN'S JOBLESS RATE FALLS

The incidence of unemployment in Michigan dropped by five tenths of a percentage point during the month as the jobless rate slipped from 8.9 percent in February to 8.4 percent in March. The rate decrease represents 17,000 fewer individuals out of work, as total statewide residents seeking employment fell to 376,000. The decline in joblessness was primarily a result of employment gains in both the service and retail trade industries. Total employment in March advanced by 50,000 to reach 4,088,000, while the statewide civilian labor force grew by 32,000 to total 4,463,000. Compared with a year ago, employment in Michigan has jumped by 190,000, while the size of the labor force has escalated by 151,000. In March 1986, the total number of persons out of work amounted to 414,000, representing an unemployment rate of 9.6 percent.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES INCH UPWARD

Wage and salary employment in Michigan increased slightly as total industry jobs advanced to 3,642,000 in March. Employment opportunities rose by approximately 2,000 as service producing gains barely offset goods producing losses. Total employment in the goods producing industries, slipped by 2,000 primarily as a result of manufacturing cutbacks in the automotive related industries. Service producing employment increased by 4,000 to 2,546,000 in March, as minor employment gains were recorded in retail trade and services. Public sector positions remained stable over the month at 616,000. Since March 1986, industry employment in Michigan has increased by 50,000 positions or 1.4 percent. Approximately 63,000 service producing jobs have been added throughout the year, while goods producing employment fell by 13,000.

MICHIGAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (1983–1987)



Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Estimates

State of Michigan

ITEM	MAR 1987	FEB 1987	JAN 1987	MAR 1986
PLACE OF RESIDENCE				
Civilian Labor Force	4464	4431	4417	4312
Employment	4088	4038	4059	3898
Unemployment	376	393	358	414
Rate	8.4	8.9	8.1	9.6
PLACE OF WORK				
Wage and Salary Employment	3642	3640	3628	3592
Goods Producing Industries	1096	1098	1101	1109
Construction and Mining	117	114	117	107
Mining	10	10	10	10
Construction	107	104	108	97
Manufacturing	979	985	984	1002
Durable Goods	759	764	763	788
Lumber and Wood Products	14	13	13	13
Furniture and Fixtures	27	27	27	27
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	16	16	16	16
Metals	168	169	169	176
Primary Metals	49	49	49	51
Fabricated Metals	120	120	120	125
Nonelectrical Machinery	125	126	126	125
Electrical Machinery	38	39	39	37
Transportation Equipment	347	351	349	360
Motor Vehicles and Equip.	324	329	327	339
Other Transportation Equip.	23	23	22	21
Other Durable Goods	22	22	22	22
Nondurable Goods	220	221	221	214
Food and Kindred Products	44	44	45	43
Textiles and Apparel	25	25	26	23
Paper and Allied Products	21	22	21	21
Printing and Publishing	38	38	38	38
Chemicals and Petroleum	43	43	43	43
Other Nondurable Goods	49	49	48	46
Rubber and Plastic Prod.	46	46	46	44
Service Producing Industries	2546	2542	2527	2483
Trans., Comm. and Utilities	148	148	149	145
Transportation and Utilities	114	113	114	110
Communications	35	35	35	35
Wholesale Trade	177	178	179	174
Durable Goods	114	115	115	113
Nondurable Goods	62	63	63	61
Retail Trade	636	632	642	609
General Merchandise Stores	92	92	98	89
Food Stores	89	89	89	87
Automotive Dealers and Services	74	74	74	71
Eating and Drinking Places	219	215	215	206
Other Retail Trade	163	162	166	156
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	175	174	175	166
Finance	90	89	90	86
Insurance and Real Estate	86	85	85	80
Services	794	793	791	776
Business Services	171	171	171	163
Health Services	266	266	266	262
Other Services	357	356	353	352
Government	616	616	592	613
Federal	60	60	60	60
State	157	159	148	153
Local	399	397	384	400
Labor Disputes	0	0	0	0

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE data are based on the monthly Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - 1986 Benchmark.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT is based on a monthly sample of employing establishments as part of the cooperative federal-state Current Employment Statistics program - March 1986 Benchmark.

NOTES Data expressed in thousands. Current month data are preliminary

CLAIMS ACTIVITY

Individuals collecting regular unemployment benefits decreased slightly in March. The regular benefits claims load averaged 152,868 per week during the month, approximately 456 less than the February total.

The marginal decline in the monthly average was basically due to employment gains in the retail trade and service related industries. In March 1986, the number of claimants drawing benefits under the regular benefit program averaged 132,819, or approximately 15 percent lower than the present total.

WEEKLY CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Week Ending	Michigan			Detroit		
	Total	Initial	Continued	Total	Initial	Continued
March 07, 1987	164,900	15,400	149,500	74,100	7,000	67,100
March 14, 1987	165,300	15,900	149,400	75,200	8,000	67,200
March 21, 1987	159,800	13,900	145,900	72,200	6,500	65,700
March 28, 1987	157,500	15,700	141,800	72,400	6,800	65,600

DETROIT AREA COST OF LIVING MOVES UPWARD

Consumer prices in the Detroit metropolitan area rose from 324.7 in December to 327.6 in February. The increase in Detroit area prices was primarily due to higher costs for housing and medical care. Prices in the area climbed by 1.5 percent since February 1986, when the consumer price index stood at 322.9.

Nationally, the cost of living advanced by four tenths of a percent to reach 335.9 during the month of March. The higher national prices were due to significant cost increases for men and women's apparel. Between March 1986 and March 1987, national consumer prices increased by three percent. One year ago, the national index registered 326.0.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

The average workweek of Michigan workers in manufacturing industries slipped from 42.9 hours in February to 42.8 hours in March. The minor decrease occurred primarily as a result of shorter hours worked by individuals in electrical and nonelectrical machinery.

During the month average hourly earnings inched upward by one cent to $12.93, while average weekly earnings fell by eighty seven cents to total $553.40. In March 1986, earnings averaged $12.91 an hour or $559.00 per week for a 43.3 hour workweek.

MICHIGAN'S HOURS AND EARNINGS

Industry	Average Hourly Earnings a/			Average Weekly Hours a/			Average Weekly Earnings a/		
	Mar 1987	Feb 1987	Mar 1986	Mar 1987	Feb 1987	Mar 1986	Mar 1987	Feb 1987	Mar 1986
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	$12.93	$12.92	$12.91	42.8	42.9	43.3	$553.40	$554.27	$559.00
DURABLE GOODS	13.44	13.43	13.47	43.1	43.2	43.7	579.26	580.18	588.64
Primary Metal Products	12.62	12.46	12.14	43.4	43.0	43.3	547.71	535.78	525.66
Fabricated Metal Products	12.62	12.46	12.14	43.4	43.0	43.3	547.71	535.78	525.66
Nonelectrical Machinery	13.15	13.20	13.08	43.8	44.2	44.7	575.97	583.44	584.68
Electrical Machinery	11.13	11.04	10.82	41.4	41.8	43.1	460.78	461.47	466.34
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	15.21	15.20	15.41	44.0	43.9	44.4	669.24	667.28	684.20
NONDURABLE GOODS	11.05	11.03	10.63	41.9	41.8	41.6	462.99	461.05	442.21
Contract Construction	15.36	15.61	15.78	36.8	37.0	37.4	565.25	577.57	590.17
Department Stores	6.56	6.69	6.63	27.0	25.8	26.2	177.12	172.60	173.71

a/ Average weekly and hourly earnings are computed from aggregates of individual establishment reports utilizing the total amount paid to production workers and total production hours. Average weekly and hourly earnings differ from weekly and hourly rates in that they are affected by overtime wage rates, part-time earnings, the length of the workweek, etc.

Note: *Current month data are preliminary.*

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES
MARCH 1987 (Preliminary)

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Total Employment	Total Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
United States	118,353,000	110,229,000	8,124,000	6.9
Michigan	4,463,000	4,088,000	376,000	8.4
Major Labor Markets				
Ann Arbor MSA	157,000	150,100	6,900	4.4
Battle Creek MSA	62,200	57,500	4,700	7.6
Benton Harbor MSA	75,800	69,800	6,000	7.9
Detroit MSA	2,180,000	2,006,000	174,000	8.0
Flint MSA	200,000	180,700	19,300	9.6
Grand Rapids MSA	334,300	313,300	21,000	6.3
Jackson MSA	62,200	57,200	4,900	7.9
Kalamazoo MSA	113,500	107,600	5,900	5.2
Lansing MSA	236,700	221,600	15,100	6.4
Muskegon MSA	67,500	60,000	7,600	11.2
Saginaw-Bay-Midland MSA	184,400	165,300	19,100	10.4
Upper Peninsula LMA	129,200	111,000	18,200	14.1
Major Counties (15,000+)				
Allegan	51,075	47,900	3,175	6.2
Barry	20,725	19,050	1,675	8.1
Bay	54,200	47,200	7,000	13.0
Branch	17,325	16,000	1,325	7.7
Cass	22,775	21,300	1,475	6.4
Clinton	27,950	27,650	2,100	7.1
Delta	15,650	13,650	2,000	12.7
Eaton	51,150	48,150	3,000	5.9
Grand Traverse	32,575	29,250	3,325	10.2
Gratiot	17,425	15,000	2,425	13.9
Hillsdale	19,100	17,500	1,600	8.3
Huron	15,475	13,550	1,925	12.4
Ingham	155,825	145,825	10,000	6.4
Ionia	18,125	15,925	2,225	12.2
Isabella	27,000	25,125	1,875	7.0
Kent	246,175	230,875	15,300	6.2
Lapeer	32,250	29,175	3,050	9.5
Lenawee	41,725	38,025	3,675	8.8
Livingston	50,950	47,725	3,200	6.3
Macomb	376,400	345,300	31,100	8.3
Marquette	28,425	25,525	2,900	10.2
Midland	35,775	32,625	3,150	8.8
Monroe	63,225	57,725	5,500	8.7
Montcalm	21,575	19,050	2,525	11.7
Newaygo	16,675	14,750	1,925	11.5
Oakland	570,925	534,075	36,850	6.5
Ottawa	88,125	82,400	5,725	6.5
Saginaw	94,450	85,500	8,950	9.5
St. Clair	66,925	58,925	8,000	12.0
St. Joseph	26,075	24,050	2,025	7.8
Sanilac	19,100	16,800	2,300	12.1
Shiawassee	31,950	28,850	3,100	9.7
Tuscola	22,050	19,300	2,750	12.4
Van Buren	29,500	26,425	3,075	10.4
Wayne	1,019,600	933,200	86,400	8.5

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